

ation of structures

heater, and 4,700 feet of radiation) at a cost of \$3,243.80.

On January 5, 1893, in his annual message to the City Councils, Mayor Charles E. Rettew made 12 recommendations and suggestions to the city's legislators. His ninth proposal to them was that fireproof vaults be constructed and arranged for the convenience of the treasurer, controller, mayor and city engineer, in order that all records, maps and dockets might be properly cared for. In accordance with that proposal, Tryon's workmen began digging the foundation for four vaults, extending through both stories in the two-story wing, in April, 1894. The cost of installing the vaults was \$2,000. On September 4, 1894, the bid of \$970 by the Fenton Metallic Manufacturing Company to equip these vaults with steel cases was accepted by the City Councils and the steel file cases were installed shortly thereafter.

On February 15, 1893, it was announced in *The Carbondale Leader* (page 4) that the new City Hall would contain: one very large room for a public hall, two large rooms for the post office, one large room for common council, one large room for select council, one room for the poor department, one room for the board of health, one room for the board of assessors, one room for the mayor's office, one room for the police department, two rooms for the city engineer, one room for the city solicitor, one room for the city treasurer, one room for the city controller, one room for the city clerk, five rooms for the jailer's family, three rooms for the prisoners, numerous offices for rental to professional men and women, clubs, and social organizations.

The annual fees to be charged to those persons and organizations who rented the offices in the three-story wing and the tower that were not used by the city officials were announced in *The Carbondale Leader* on September 19, 1893 (p.4). First floor: post office, \$500; tower room, \$240. Second floor: tower room, \$180; two front rooms, \$240; one corner room, \$180; one side room, \$120. Third floor: tower room, \$120; two front rooms, \$200; one corner room, \$120; one side room, \$100.

On September 19, 1893, the City Councils accepted two rental offers in the new part of City Hall: (1) the offer of

Alderman Samuel Sheldon Jones of \$150 a year for the tower room on the second floor; (2) the offer of Messrs. George Van Keuren and W. F. Sadler, Jr., representing the club of business and professional men of Carbondale, of \$360 a year for the three rooms on the third floor.

It has not yet been learned whether or not an official dedication ceremony took place to mark the completion of present-day Carbondale City Hall. We do know, however, that by the fall of 1894, all of the city's officials were housed in their new offices in the completed building. The treasurer's office was in the tower room on the ground floor; the mayor's office and the office of the chief of police were on the ground floor in the two-story wing.

The original plan for the building called for locating the Common Council Chamber and the Select Council Chamber at the north end of the second story in the three-story wing, the Common Council Chamber having the front room and being separated from the Select Council Chamber by roll partition doors, the dimensions of the double room being 17 x 33 feet. These rooms were apparently found to be inadequate for the city's legislators, for it was later decided that the old court room in the two-story wing (present-day Council Chambers) would be more appropriate for Council Chambers. Accordingly, a sliding partition was put through the center of the old court room, and the Common and Select Councils moved their rooms in the three-story wing to their chambers in the two-story wing. The City Councils held their first meeting in their new chambers in the two-story wing of Carbondale City Hall on September 4, 1894. The Council Chambers were furnished by Kinback Brothers of Carbondale, who also supplied other furnishing for the interior of City Hall. The cost of the furniture for Council Chambers was \$360.

(This history of present-day City Hall will be continued in next week's edition of the NEWS, when S. Robert Powell will discuss the importance of Carbondale City Hall in the history of American architecture.)